

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 159691
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
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APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE
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-----122461 092222Z /64
R 090145Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO OAU COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159691

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OAU

SUBJECT: THE OAU SUMMIT: A SUCCESS FOR MODERATES

REF.: LIBREVILLE 1731, ETC.

1. BELOW IS OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND SUMMIT MEETINGS, WHICH ENDED JULY IN LIBREVILLE, GABON. ON BALANCE, THE SUMMIT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A SUCCESS FOR AFRICAN MODERATES AND AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S ACTIVISM AND POLICY INITIATIVES VIS A VIS AFRICA.

2. THE LIBREVILLE OAU MEETINGS WERE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER TEN YEARS DOMINATED BY A PRO-WESTERN, AND LARGELY FRANCOPHONE-LED, COALITION OF MODERATE AFRICAN STATES CONCERNED WITH WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS GROWING SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION AND DETERMINED TO ASSERT THEIR LEADERSHIP AS
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PAGE 02 STATE 159691

A MAJORITY AMONG THE OAU'S 49 MEMBERS. CLOSED SESSIONS OF THE SUMMIT--ATTENDED BY A NEAR-RECORD 23 HEADS OF STATE, INCLUDING A HEAVY TURN-OUT FROM THE FRENCH-SPEAKING STATES--WERE MARKED BY BITTER BILATERAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ITS HORN NEIGHBORS, ANGOLA AND ZAIRE, LIBYA AND CHAD, AS WELL AS BY THE INABILITY OF THE SO-CALLED "RADICAL" BLOC TO MUSTER MORE THAN 17 TO 19 VOTES.

3. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, OAU LEADERS ADOPTED A COMPROMISE RESOLUTION VIRTUALLY RECOGNIZING THE NKOMO-MUGABE PATRIOTIC FRONT AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ZIMBABWE PEOPLE. WHILE THIS ACTION WILL COMPLICATE JOINT UK-US EFFORTS TO REACH A SETTLEMENT ON MAJORITY RULE, THE FACT THAT THE OAU ALSO ENDORSED, WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO NAMIBIA, WESTERN INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA GIVES US SOME ADDITIONAL TIME TO WORK OUT INTERNATIONALLY-ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISES. MORE IMPORTANTLY FOR US, THE TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF OAU RESOLUTIONS AND RHETORIC INDICATE THAT A MAJORITY OF AFRICAN LEADERS FIND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES TO BE BOTH CREDIBLE AND SINCERE.

4. ON INTRA-AFRICAN ISSUES, MODERATES WERE ON THE OFFENSIVE ON QUESTIONS OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS WITH SUDAN'S NUMAYRI LEADING THE WAY IN HIS SPEECH DENOUNCING "SOCIALIST IMPERIALISM." THE ABSENCE OF BENIN--WHICH LED AN EARLIER UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO SCUTTLE THE SUMMIT--AND THE NEAR SILENCE OF ETHIOPIA MEANT THAT TWO OF THE MOST PROMISING "RADICAL" COUNTERISSUES NEVER REACHED THE FLOOR. THE SUMMIT APPROVED COUNCIL OF MINISTER MOTIONS TO CREATE AD HOC MEDIATION COMMITTEES IN THE LIBYA-CHAD CONFRONTATION AND A THREE-CORNERED DISPUTE INVOLVING SUDAN, ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. THE CHIEFS OF STATE ALSO
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PAGE 03 STATE 159691

ACCEPTED A NIGERIAN PROPOSAL TO STRENGTHEN OAU PEACE-KEEPING MACHINERY, AND RESCHEDULED THE OFTEN-POSTPONED EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT ON THE WESTERN SAHARA INSURGENCY FOR OCTOBER IN LUSAKA.

5. ON EXTRA-CONTINENTAL ISSUES, THE SUMMIT APPROVED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, BUT AGAIN DUCKED THE HARDY PERENNIAL, ZIONISM AS RACISM. DESPITE INCOMING OAU CHAIRMAN BONGO'S OPENING SESSION ATTACK ON THE DEVELOPED WORLD FOR ITS "LACK OF CONCERN" WITH GROWING LDC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, THE SUBJECT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND THE RECENT CIEC CONSULTATIONS DID NOT LOOM LARGE IN A SUMMIT THAT WAS MOST REMARKABLE FOR AN UNUSUALLY COHESIVE AND FORCEFUL MODERATE AFRICAN OFFENSIVE AIMED AT TURNING THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN A SOUNDING BOARD FOR RADICAL THIRD WORLD RHETORIC.

6. FROM THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE, IT IS WELL TO REMEMBER THAT THE OAU WAS CREATED IN 1963 IN AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE FRICTIONS BETWEEN RIVAL GROUPINGS OF AFRICAN MODERATE AND

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THEREFORE, NOW BE SEEING IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR
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BLOCKS. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 159691
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 /025 R

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DRAFTED BY UNA/BJSHARP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159691

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

FOL RPT STATE 159691 SENT ACTION TO OAU COLLECTIVE DTD 09 JUL 77

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 159691

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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